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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202499

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM, PFOR, CI

SUBJ: HRC - REQUEST BY CHAIRMAN ALLANA OF HRC INVESTIGA-
IVE GROUP FOR CHILE

REF: A) STATE 194786, B) SANTIAGO 5638

1. BC OFFICE DIRECTOR FIMBRES MET AUGUST 24 WITH DINA CHIEF MANUEL CONTRERAS. THE SUBJECT OF CHILE AND FORTHCOMING UN SESSIONS WAS DISCUSSED. FIMBRES TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST A COOPERATIVE GOC GESTURE WITH HRC WORKING GROUP ALONG LINES REFTEL A. ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOME POSITIVE ACTION LOOKING TO LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES MIGHT HELP UNDERCUT CRITICISM ABROAD AND MAKE MORE MANAGEABLE THE GOC PROBLEM AT THE UN.

2. CONTRERAS SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING CERTAIN STEPS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE. WHILE THEY ARE NOT CONVEYING POSSI-
BILITY OF RESCHEDULING WORKING GROUP VISIT, AS WAS MADE CLEAR
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TO HIM IN LIMA, ALLANA IS FREE TO GO TO CHILE AT ANY TIME.
A WALDHEIM VISIT IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY, AS IS THAT OF AN ESPECIALLY SELECTED GROUP WHOSE OBJECTIVITY WOULD NOT BE OPEN TO QUESTION. HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED THE GOC WOULD PREFER

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SUCH A VISIT NOT BE PUBLICIZED UNTIL AFTER ITS ARRIVAL IN CHILE. THIS WOULD AVOID OPPOSITION ELEMENTS FROM SEIZING

THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT AS WAS PLANNED FOR WG VISIT. AS FOR THE TIMING, HE SAW THIS AS SOMETHING TO BE ARRANGED SEVERAL MONTHS FROM NOW.

3. FOR THE NEAR TERM, THE GOC PREFERS NOT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE WG BUT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOPES WILL BE USEFUL. A NUMBER OF PROMINENT AND CONCERNED CHILEANS HAVE APPROACHED THE WG IN GENEVA. THEY WILL, IN THEIR PRIVATE CAPACITY, PRESENT INFORMATION IN DEFENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK TO BACKSTOP HUERTA AND THE INVITATION TO WALDHEIM TO VISIT CHILE ARE ALSO PART OF THIS EFFORT. HE SAID THAT WALDHEIM RESPONDED HE WOULD CONSIDER THE CHILEAN INVITATION FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH HIS COLLEAGUES.

4. WITH RESPECT TO AN INITIATIVE BY SANTIAGO TO EASE SECURITY MEASURES, HE ASSURED THIS WAS IN THE OFFING. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LOWER THE STATE OF SIEGE ONE STEP, WHICH WOULD PERMIT CIVILIAN JURIDICAL REVIEW FOR DETAINEES PROCESSED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DECISION, THE GOC WOULD ALSO ANNOUNCE RELEASE TO GO OUT OF THE COUNTRY OF APPROXIMATELY HALF THE HARD CORE OF 600 POLITICAL DETAINEES. CONTRERAS CLAIMED THESE HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE EXPLAINED THE OTHER 300 ARE EXTREMISTS WHOM THEY BELIEVE WOULD RETURN TO CHILE AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY IF RELEASED AND SEEK TO MOUNT GUERRILLA ACTIVITY.

5. CONTRERAS SAID THE FOREGOING WAS PASSED TO DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN CONFIDENCE AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE WASHINGTON. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID U.S. EMBASSY, SANTIAGO, WAS ALREADY PRIVY TO THE ABOVE INFORMATION. INGERSOLL

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